

Godwin House

Reisterstown, Maryland

Public Access

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA 1250

MAGE #0312505604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Godwin House (Dr. Godwin House)

AND/OR COMMON

(Ensor Real Estate)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

357 Main Street

6th

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

—DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

—PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

—BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

—UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

—NO

PRESENT USE

—AGRICULTURE

☒ COMMERCIAL

—EDUCATIONAL

—ENTERTAINMENT

—GOVERNMENT

—INDUSTRIAL

—MILITARY

—MUSEUM

—PARK

—PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—RELIGIOUS

—SCIENTIFIC

—TRANSPORTATION

—OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Ensor

Telephone #: 833-0062

STREET & NUMBER

1612 Prospect Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Glyndon

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD 21071

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County

Liber #: 5390

Folio #: 13

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

MD

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

357 MAIN STREET is a two and one-half storey frame dwelling of the Queen Anne style dated 1896. Sited on a large landscaped lot well back from the street, the principal facade faces the street to the west. The massing of the house is irregular and picturesque; basically the roof is a very steep hip with gables to the front (west) at the south end, to the north at the west and east ends and to the rear (east) above a kitchen wing extending from the north end. Generally, gables correspond to projections in the basic shape of the house. A wide semi-octagonal bay projects from the south side near the east end of the main house, its cornice continuous with that of the main house, its roof rising in a semi-octagonal hip against the main roof. A wide, shallow rectangular bay window, two storeys in height, rises against the north-east gable. Broad dormers containing doubled windows are in the westerly or front slope of the roof, and on the semi-octagonal hipped roof above the southerly bay window. The westerly dormer window pediment contains the date in applied wooden numerals surrounded by jig-sawn scrollwork. A third dormer, triangular in plan, projects westerly from the very peak of the main roof, its windows facing the diagonal. A one storey hipped-roof porch of the Ionic order extends across the west front and along the south side to the semi-octagonal bay; a similar porch, semi-octagonal in shape spans the internal corner formed by the main house and the northeasterly projection. A two storey gallery is at the east end of a two storey shed-roofed extension of the kitchen wing.

Exterior walls are covered with weatherboards; the corner boards form pilasters. The cornice is dentiled. Roofs are covered with asbestos shingles. Windows generally are 1/1, flanked with louvred blinds but the upper sashes of the dormers are filled with leaded glass and a square casement midway on the north wall, marking the staircase within, is filled with richly colored opalescent glass. A Venetian window is in the westerly gable.

The principal entrance in the west facade opens into a square reception and stair hall in the northwest corner of the house; a parlor is to the south and another is to its west; the dining room is west of the reception hall and the service and kitchen wing extends east of the dining room. Each room (excluding the stair hall) projects from the basic rectangular mass of the house, according to the gables described above. A back stair is in the extreme southeast corner of the rectangular mass of the house, behind the rear parlor.

Virtually all interior details are original including finishes, trim and hardware. First storey openings are trimmed with quarter-sawn oak, finished naturally, having plain jambs supporting an architrave with egg-and-dart tenia, frieze and dentiled cornice. Generally, pairs of sliding paneled doors connect each principal space.

The staircase, picturesquely massed in three runs, all of quarter-sawn oak, finished naturally, has paneled newels with carved ornamentation and urn finials, a moulded rail and turned balusters; upper newels have drop finials. Each room

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Continuation Sheet Godwin House
357 Main Street
Reisterstown, Maryland
Baltimore County

7 Description Continued

has a fireplace and chimney piece and each is different. In the hall, Tuscan columns, partly fluted, support consoles flanking a paneled frieze containing swags of foliage. The mantel piece is oak and it surrounds a golden marbelized tile firebox facing. In the front parlor the painted mantel encases a projecting firebox faced with white tile. The shelf is a carved cornice and from it composite paneled pilasters with bell-flowers support an entablature above a beveled mirror. In the rear parlor partially fluted Tuscan pilasters support partially fluted Tuscan columns which support a pulvinated frieze and dentiled cornice; a beveled mirror is between the upper columns and the bowed shelf below the mirror is supported by a carved console. The firebox is faced with blue tile and an enclosed cast-iron coal grate and surround remains in place. In the dining room, all trim is of clear edge-grain pine, finished naturally. In the mantel columns of an original Ionic order support a shelf with a carved cornice; in turn it supports smaller similar columns which support a top shelf with another carved cornice; carved scrollwork rises above the upper shelf and a beveled mirror is between the two shelves. The firebox is faced with dark red tile.

The second storey plan is similar and its details are similar but simpler. Each room has a fireplace, each with its original mantelpiece, all richly ornamented and carved. Trim, generally, is of clear edge-grain pine, finished naturally.

The principal stair extends to the third floor where all rooms are finished with plastered walls and ceilings. Details are quite simple and there are no fireplaces. As expected, the ceiling form is quite irregular due to the picturesque massing of the forms.

Behind the dwelling is a frame privy with a steep pyramidal roof having a louvred cupola at its peak, also with a pyramidal roof. Exterior walls are covered with German siding. Interior walls are finished with horizontal beaded boarding and the seats, formerly along the south side, are missing.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW		
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

357 Main Street is a large and important house in the Queen Anne style, especially important because it contains an original and reliable date signature in its west dormer: 1896. Thus this house serves as a guide in the dating of other houses in the region.

In the Queen Anne style the picturesque forms of the Gothic and Romanesque revivals mixed with late eighteenth century motifs of the Colonial and Georgian revivals.

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This property is located on the east side of the turnpike in the section known originally as Brotherly Love. In March of 1879, Philip Reister Owings and his wife Susan, deeded 7 acres of this area to William Godwin. This parcel apparently contained #365 Main St. (q.v.) which P. R. Owings is shown as owning on the 1877 Hopkins Atlas. (JB 111/310)

Five years later, the 1884, Godwin acquired 15 more acres in this area from Andrew Banks. He paid \$3000.00 at this time. (AM 141/518) This land lay to the north of his first purchase and was bounded on the north by land owned by the Methodist Episcopal Church (now #319). It must have extended to the east some distance as in subsequent years Godwin sold some acres to the Oddfellows Lodge which was then built. It is next to St. Luke Methodist Church on Bond Avenue. (1898 NBM 231/97)

Mr. Godwin must have decided to settle in this area, because he lived for a time in what is now #365 (Philip Reister Owings' house) while his own very grand house was built in 1896 in the midst of 22 acres (Marks op cit., p. 80)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 Significance Continued

In 1913, he sold some acreage to Frank Zouck, another upstanding citizen in the community. Soon another fine house stood next door (#337 q.v.) (WPC 425/517)

In 1915, Dr. Godwin, now a widower, deeded the remainder of his original 22 acres to Margaret E. Nichols (WPC 454/171). There was 15 66/100 acres in this transaction, including the house.

In 1920, Mrs. Nichols sold the same parcel to Jacob W. Wolf and wife. (WPC 534/300) Jacob W. Wolf became well known cattle dealers in town on their spread of 15 acres. On contemporary maps of Reisterstown, Wolf Avenue can still be traced off of Bond Avenue leading into this large parcel.

In 1945 Jacob W. Wolf deeded the parcel to one of his sons, William and wife Louise (RJS 1412/530). They kept the property for 14 more years.

In 1959, the Johns Realty Company purchased the house which now stood on 10 75/100 acres.

John T. and Virginia Schuster purchased this property in 1963 (RRG 4140/128) In 1965, they sold the house and 1.9 acres with it to Robert and Jean Moser for \$35,000.00. (OTG 4515/459) At this time there was a special agreement granting an option to the Schusters to "repurchase an undivided one-half interest in said property at & for the price of \$17,500.00." This option could not be exercised for five years and apparently it never was.

In 1973 Robert L. Moser (his wife had died) sold the land and house to 357 Associates who used it as rental property for some years. At one point the Reisterstown YWCA used the building (first floor) for its activities (EHK, Jr. 5390/13).

In 1977, 357 Associates deeded the property to Lawrence Ensor and wife, Zelma. (EHK, Jr. 5748/965) It has been restored and is used as a real estate office.

It was not possible to find anything definitive about Dr. Godwin. It is not known what his profession was. It is thought that he had several daughters and a son. The son was killed. One daughter, Rebecca had married Andrew Banks. Another daughter married the future Governor of Delaware. Dr. Godwin was an older man already when he came to live at #357. (His daughter and son-in-law sold him the land and she was 45 years old then) He must have lived until well in his late eighties or early nineties.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lilliam B. Marks Reisters Desire (Baltimore, 1975)
Land Records, Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Md.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.90 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

James T. Wollon A.I.A.

NAME / TITLE

Mrs Lawrence Ensor and Mrs George Cosman Volunteer Researchers
Ms. Cornelia M. Ives

ORGANIZATION

Historic Reisterstown, Inc

DATE

September 1978

STREET & NUMBER

430 Main Street

TELEPHONE

833-3078 (Ms Ives)

CITY OR TOWN

Reisterstown, Maryland 21136

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



BA 1250

Godwin House

357 Main St - Reist. Md.

David English

6/77

West.